Spring 2004

GLEN PARK NEWS

Official Newspaper of the Glen Park Association

Published Quarterly

Draft plan for neighborhood moves ahead

by Beth Weise

On April 15, at the request of Planning Department staff, the Planning Commission endorsed the Glen Park Draft Plan, which gives design guidelines for transportation and all land uses and retail, commercial and open space, to make sure that any developments are consistent with the neighborhood's desires.

The plan got its start in 2002 when the San Francisco Planning Department received grants of $80,000 from CalTrans, $15,000 from BART and $5,000 from the San Francisco Public Library plus a $25,000 in-kind donation from the Planning Department. It was finished in November 2003 after an extensive period of public comment, meetings and feedback.

For the plan to proceed, it now needs an environmental review to become adopted as City policy. Once the plan becomes City policy, all City departments must take it into consideration in their work. Other neighborhoods that have gone through this process include Market-Octavia, the Mission, SOMA, Showplace Square and Potrero Hill.

Endorsing a draft plan is a somewhat unusual step. Fully funded draft plans typically proceed directly to environmental review and adoption. But in the case of the draft plan for Glen Park, the grants were not enough to complete the environmental review, so the intermediate step of endorsement was taken to show support for the public process, which had occurred over the summer of 2003, and to assist in leveraging funding for implementation.

After a presentation of the draft by staff members David Alumbaugh and AnMarie Rodgers and public comment, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to endorse. This endorsement is an important step in helping to secure more funds so the public planning process can proceed.

Some have asked how this draft plan for Glen Park relates to the Housing Element of the City's General Plan. Rodgers explained that the Glen Park Draft Plan is an example of how the broad policies of the General Plan, including the Housing Element, are articulated and applied to individual neighborhoods in the city.

The Glen Park plan was prepared through a series of intensive planning workshops based directly in the community. Neighbors and City planners worked to resolve existing traffic, transit and parking problems, improve connections and pedestrian safety, enhance local business vitality, build transit-served housing and explore ways of retaining the beloved character of Glen Park into the future.

The Draft Plan for Glen Park does not recommend changing height limits or significant rezoning. It proposes a modest number of new units and offers guidelines for new development within the neighborhood commercial center of Glen Park. And it addresses other issues such as transportation, open space and economic vitality.

Copies of the draft plan are available for viewing at the Glen Park Library. Limited copies of the draft are available from the Planning Department. Call the Planning Department at 558-6395 to request a copy or to be added to the Planning Department's notification list for the Glen Park Neighborhood Plan.

For one resident's perspective on the neighborhood planning process, read Dan Tuttle's commentary on Page 14.

Glen Park Association Meeting Notice

Tuesday, July 13, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Glen Park Recreation Center (Elk and Chenery streets). Agenda includes community planning.

As the Glen Park Festival got going the morning of April 25, tantalizing aromas were already wafting from this year's new, improved Food Court on Diamond Street, at the center of the action. More festival photos are inside this issue.

Glen Park's 2004 festival was fun for all

by Sheila McClear

Glen Park felt more like Honolulu as the Eighth Annual Glen Park Festival unfolded on a rare, hot and sunny April Sunday. Two innovations marked this year's event: A new layout put food and drink booths on Diamond, closer to vendors and the stage. And for the first time, festival goers could feast on fried calamari, tri-trip, Italian sausages and other hot foods cooked on-site. Despite the heat, the food went fast, with more than one food vendor selling out before the day was over.

Old favorites, including Fire Engine No. 26, the balloon clown, daylong live music performances and more than 40 artist and neighborhood organization booths kept kids and adults entertained as a record crowd thronged Wilder and Diamond streets. Glen Park Festival President Marie Simard circulated; she and her festival committee members seemed to be everywhere at once, making sure everything ran smoothly. Supervisor Bevan Dufty chatted with neighbors and constituents. The festival got a special boost this year from KFOG radio, which donated on-air and on-line promotions, and was on hand at the festival all day.

The Jeffrey Gaeto Quartet led off the day's music, followed by St. Paul's School Choir, Andy Z, Zakiya Hooker & Bluz 4U, and Mestizo. So many people were dancing when Mestizo played its closing number that the group gave the crowd an extra half hour, to cheers and applause.

Check the Festival Web site—www.glenparkfestival.com—for details of next year's event, and ways you can participate in helping it happen.

Festival committee members Michele Bulen; Marie Simard, president; and Howard Reinstein were all smiles as the April 25 event neared its conclusion.

Glen Park Association President Steve Doliov (right) chatted with volunteers and neighbors in the GPA booth at the 2004 festival.

The mission of the Glen Park Association is to promote the collective interests of all persons living in Glen Park, to inform and educate about neighborhood and citywide issues, to promote sociability and friendships and to support beneficial neighborhood projects.

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Glen Park News

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Marketplace moves ahead but still stirs controversy

by Beth Weise

The Glen Park Marketplace project developers officially applied for their building permit on April 23—the last required piece of the permit application process. Supervisor Bevan Dufty is committed to speeding the process along and if all goes well the building permit could come through as soon as June 1 and ground could be broken the next day for the long-awaited project at Diamond and Wilder streets.

Project representatives presented the architect's drawing of the new building's proposed façade at a contentious Glen Park Association meeting on April 13. The building's appearance is fairly traditional, in keeping with the prevailing architecture of the surrounding neighborhood.

The Bi-Rite Market portion of the building, most of the ground floor, will be finished in brick. The Glen Park Branch Library portion, which will occupy the second floor with a "podium corner element" entrance at street level on Diamond, will be clad in limestone "to emphasize its importance as a civic building," says the San Francisco Planning Department's Rick Crawford. The 15 residential units on the third level, which will be set back from the street and thus will not be visible from the sidewalk level on Diamond Street, will be finished in stucco.

More than 65 people attended the April 13 GPA meeting at the Glen Park Rec Center, which featured a presentation by the project team intended as an informational update for the community on the progress of the project, and specifically to give a first glimpse of the final façade design. It was not meant as an avenue for community input, as that two-year process is now complete. In fact, the only remaining Planning Department issue is the choice of finish materials for the façade.

But while the City's official community-input process is over, the community was still glad to provide input. The meeting became contentious, with a fairly vocal minority shouting out increasingly angry questions about everything from parking to design questions. One man demanded to know why the artist's rendering of the front of the building excluded overhead wires, while a woman questioned whether the trees represented would in fact be the exact kind of trees planted.

Finally it was pointed out that the rendering was intended simply to represent the building's final exterior appearance—the structure's size, shape and volume remain unchanged from what the City has previously approved during the long process of reviews and challenges. The new architect noted that the latest drawing shows one major improvement over earlier exterior design sketches: the second-floor library will have substantially enlarged windows and thus more natural light.

While voices were raised, at times in anger, at the April meeting, overall the room seemed to be in favor of the project. Several attendees called out "It's over" and "Let us have our market in peace," but otherwise didn't interrupt. During the Planning Committee charrette process this summer it appeared that about 15 percent of those who took part in the meetings were opposed to the plan while the remaining 85 percent were in favor.

It is still possible that those who oppose the project could use their one final option to block it by appealing the building permit. Filing an appeal would cost $400, but it could take up to a year to work through the system.

That would be unfortunate, says Planning's Crawford: "An appeal is not likely to prevail. It would just add additional and unnecessary cost to the project. Throwing that unnecessary burden in the way of the project would be detrimental to the neighborhood because the quality of the project would suffer. If these folks [who still object to the Marketplace] really want a good project they should let it go."

Most neighbors, eager for a market and modern library, seem to agree.

Glen Park News seeks help from volunteer graphic artists

The *Glen Park News* is looking for a neighborhood volunteer to lay out this paper once each quarter.

Please call Nora Dowley at 908-6728 if you are interested or if you would like to recommend someone we might ask.

In Glen Canyon Park

with Jean Conner

Spring is always a lovely time in the Canyon. With our early warm weather this year it seemed that many plants were blooming earlier. Some plants, like the willows, bloomed and set seed in what appeared to be a very short time. On the Friends of Glen Canyon flower walk in March we saw one of the earliest of the butterflies to appear in the year: a mourning cloak butterfly. It comes to the Canyon because the willows are the food plant for the mourning cloak larva.

We took a break during our March work party and sat on the hillside near the seep. We were surrounded by silver lupine and blue dicks in bloom. White down from the willow catkins floated by like tiny snowflakes. A slight updraft caused by the heat of sun warming the air was just enough to put the seed-bearing down in motion. Damselflies and dragonflies were cruising back and forth along the willows lining the sides of Islais Creek. A monarch butterfly and an anise swallowtail butterfly glided by. Earlier, as we walked toward the seep, there had been buckeye butterflies sunning on the road.

Quinn McFrederick is doing a study of bumblebees in San Francisco. He reports that so far he has found four species of bumblebees in the city and all four of them are found in the Canyon. Nine species of bumblebees existed historically here in the city. Five of those species were common in San Francisco. Quinn is hoping to find the fifth species. Perhaps it is somewhere in Glen Canyon.

It is wonderful that we now have a "bee tree" where everyone can observe it in the Canyon. It is in a Eucalyptus across the creek from Silvertree. Red caution tape marking off the area around the tree makes it easy to spot. These are honeybees, not yellow jackets or bumblebees.

On March 3, several people reported seeing a swarm of bees that had left the overcrowded hive in search of a new home. The swarm almost completely covered the large tree stump to the left of the bee tree. I was sorry to have missed seeing the swarm since I've read about swarms but never seen one.

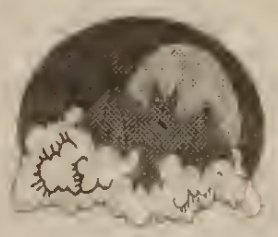
Because I no longer walk as often in the park I miss some of the interesting sights and sounds such as an insect that is new to me or listening to the owls calling to each other at dusk. I'm usually in the park only on the mornings when I'm working with Friends weeding, clearing trails or planting native plants to make the Canyon a better place for people and wildlife. I have to depend more on reports from other people about what they have seen or heard in the Canyon.

One of the park neighbors on Paradise Street reports seeing bats flying at dusk. They are the best, non-toxic and efficient mosquito control known. A single bat will eat 400 mosquitoes in one hour.

The red-tailed hawks have been seen flying over the Canyon but no one seems to know where they are nesting this year. Has anyone seen or heard the great-horned owls? I would be interested in getting any reports about what you have seen in the Canyon. You can reach me at 584-8576.

The Friends of Glen Canyon Park will once again be holding a Nature Festival in the Canyon on Sunday, June 6 at the Silvertree building. Reservations for this event can be made by calling 648-0862. This is a great activity for all the young and old who are interested in nature and Glen Canyon.

Kathy Velykis (left), Friends of Glen Canyon Park member and work party volunteer since the 1980s, with Jean Conner and Rich Craib at Friends' festival booth. Photo by Denis Wade



Nature-Fest 2004
Friends of Glen Canyon Park
June 6, 2004

From: 1 - 6 p.m.

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Presented by: Friends of Glen Canyon Park,
call Richard Craib at 415-648-0862 for more info.

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Friends group seeks support of community

by Richard Craib

Friends of Glen Canyon Park comprises more than 100 concerned community members and park advocates who support the group's agenda of "... restoring and increasing public appreciation of a significant natural area within San Francisco." Friends also serves as a watchdog group keeping everyone informed on what the Recreation and Park Department is planning for future park and facility improvements. And we are working to make sure at-risk funds specifically earmarked for trails and creek restoration are actually spent for those improvements.

As this issue goes to press, we are working with the San Francisco Police Department to end a wave of vandalism that has left the Silvertree building covered with graffiti that reappears as soon as it is painted over. The Rec Center has also been a target, as have rock outcroppings in the upper canyon.

Our routine activities include regular work parties (see the Calendar listing). In the past year—to name a few accomplishments—Friends volunteers have planted hundreds of plants, received an award from San Francisco Beautiful for work on behalf of Glen Canyon, organized the first Pancakes in the Parks event with a guided bird walk, and sponsored the fourth successful Nature Fest barbecue and natural sciences event.

Please consider becoming a member, by sending a $10 check to Friends of Glen Canyon Park, 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131. Your support is vital to us, and we never share our membership information.

Find out how you can join with your neighbors and friends to support the

New Glen Park Library Capital Campaign

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Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library
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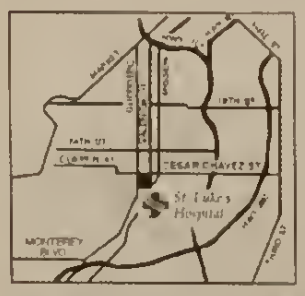

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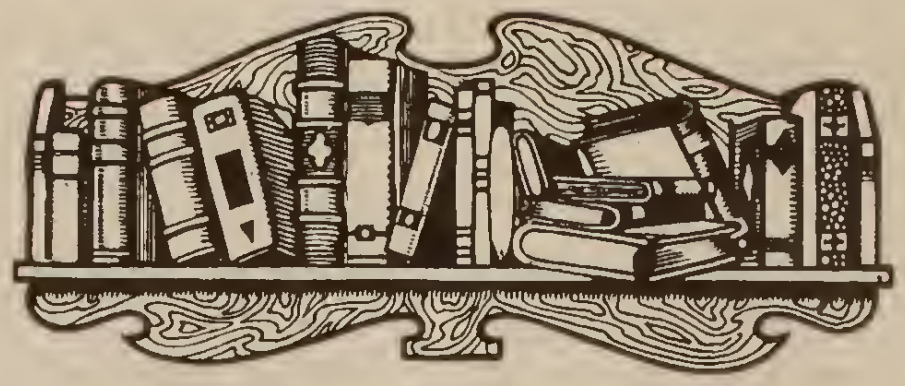

Check It Out at the Library!

by Sharon Dezurick, Glen Park Branch Librarian

Summer Reading

By the time you read this in May the Summer Reading Program for Children aged 13 and under will be almost ready to roll. Begun as a way to encourage school-age children to maintain or improve their reading skills during summer vacation, summer reading is also available to younger children who get ready for school by listening to stories.

Sign-ups will begin in late May, while the program with the marine theme "Flip Over Books!" will run from June 12 – August 7. Participants will earn small prizes for every two hours they read, with a grand prize awarded to each child who reads eight or more hours and visits the library two or more times.

For children we have picture stories, folk and fairy tales, fiction, nonfiction, books in Spanish and Chinese (and a few books in other languages), magazines, audio books, CDs, DVDs and videos. Our small teen section also offers most of the above.

Glen Park is also participating in the Teen Summer Reading program from June 12 – July 24. Teens 13 to 18 are eligible to register and read for prizes.

Special Kids' Events

In June as part of summer reading the Glen Park Branch will host the following programs, with additional programs yet to be scheduled:

Tuesday, June 15 at 11:15 a.m.
Jimbo the Clown

Saturday, June 26 at 1:30 p.m.
Nick Barrone Puppets with the Cowboy Show

Saturday, July 17 at 1:30 p.m.
Musician Bonnie Lockheart

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. **Karla Smoak**, with her lovely soprano voice, hosts story time

Every other Tuesday at about 11 a.m.
Preschool films

Public Computers

Our three public computers are used by all ages. As many of you know, two of our public computers may be reserved for one half hour at a time. One of the two has word processing and spreadsheet software. The other computer is available for 15 minutes. All three public computers are networked to a printer, so that for 15 cents per page you may print out your work or research.

Goodies for Grownups

Adult patrons have a selection of new fiction, new nonfiction, audio books, CDs, DVDs, videos, magazines and a small Spanish and Chinese section to choose from. There is a frequent infusion of new materials. There was a hiatus in ordering at the branch level as we worked out the logistics with our new computer system and our vendors, but branches are once again able to choose new materials. I have been buying more CDs, DVDs and videos and fewer print materials. In the upcoming 2004 – 2005 fiscal year we may have the choice of spending less on newspapers and magazines and more on books and media if we so choose. If you have strong feelings on this issue, let me know.

All ages may reserve materials, but the bulk of books on our reserve shelves are requested by adults.

Glen Park Branch
653 Chenery Street
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 337-4740

Hours
Monday 10 – 6
Tuesday 10 – 6
Wednesday 12 – 8
Thursday 1 – 7
Friday 1 – 6
Saturday 1 – 6

That's right folks, the Glen Park Branch is now open six days a week while Excelsior is closed.

Glen Park Branch Librarian Sharon Dezurick, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Library Capital Campaign committee member Kysa Connett-Vassily greeted festival goers at the library's booth.

Friends of the Library and neighborhood children's programs are beneficiaries of money raised at the Glen Park Festival. Prize drawings were held in front of the stage throughout the day. More than 30 businesses and organizations donated products and services; a list of prizes is at glenparkfestival.com/raffle.html.

Summertime: The roots of Achievement

by Dr. D. C. Kipping

What would it be like if people had a key to the meanings of over a hundred thousand words? Whether one is a youth or an adult, it is a matter of the willingness to go through the steps to achieve results. Goals of vocabulary enhancement are attainable through illustrated books and videos related to classics or juvenile stories. A literary classic such as The Hobbit and a video such as Finding Nemo contain ideas appealing to a wide range. More than half of a given conversation is likely to be derived from either Greek or Latin origins. This is a way to contribute to cultural and intellectual literacy as well.

Individual or group sessions are available to those who may or may not be college bound. In any case, parents as transmitters of the culture could fulfill their purpose in promoting literacy. The results of youngsters becoming cultured as well as conversant in the world of ideas can be satisfying. Raising the bar of academic competency can bring about confidence through the power of word choices.

When a coaching session begins, an individual could assimilate the terms, be they literary or scientific, through a key of word analysis skills. This doorway is open to everyone. The skills acquired with a toolbox are good for a lifetime. Is anyone ready to expand one's ability to understand and communicate more effectively?

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world..."

L. Wittgenstein

Diana Kipping holds a doctorate in education, and operates Tutoring Smart Services. Serving as a coach, she conducts workshops for parents. For information about a no-cost introductory workshop, or for her list of videos and classics, call her at 469-0532.

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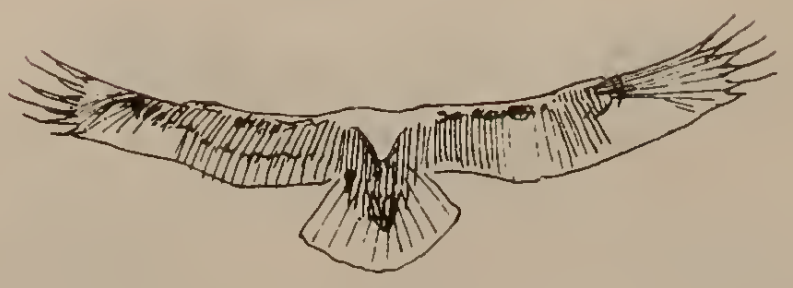

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Merchants' Forum

Merchants Association

The April meeting of the newly revitalized Glen Park Merchants Association brought out 25 merchants and small-business owners to discuss what they can do to help each other. The association plans to focus on beautifying the neighborhood with planter boxes, helping members upgrade their storefronts and continuing to discuss traffic issues. Officers include President Joe Schuver of Destination Bakery, Secretary Mark Zinky and Vice President Tiffany Farr. First off the blocks was the Cheese Boutique, which put up a new awning and has been repainted in a tasteful coffee color, which Modern Past's Ric López calls "Glen Park Tan." Owner Rick Malouf said he appreciated López's help in selecting the color.

Asian Fusion

Ric López, meanwhile, is hard at work on opening his new sushi place with an Asian fusion theme in the old wine shop quarters at 678 Chenery. Chef Gerardo Torres is in and out frequently and work continues, though the City's onerous permitting process slowed progress considerably. López says a local designer is creating uniforms for his staff and that the interior will have a "European modern" theme. He's hoping for a late summer opening.

Café Bello

Joshua and Janet Lee are the new proprietors of the erstwhile Café ? space at 2885 Diamond. Although newcomers to the coffee shop business, the couple did prodigious amounts of research before taking on the lease and are happy to hear customer suggestions. The pair say they stumbled onto the business while looking at another property online and that everything fell into place as "if it were meant to be." Janet's background is in interior design and she's added a dash of color to the space. Two Tac Squad cops were enjoying their coffee break at the new café the other morning, but no donuts. Iron Man competitors don't eat those things, they said.

Café Isabel

Sweet Sue's, 732 Chenery just up from Tygers, is on the road to becoming a more full-service bakery and café. Owner Suzanne Welsh has long sold her sweet breads, rice crispy treats and rugaluch to neighbors walking by but her main business has been sales to other cafés and coffee shops. Six months ago she took on a new co-owner, Tony Bouhalkaum, and the two are looking to expand their offerings. They hope to open Café Isabel in their space sometime this summer. It's named after Welsh's daughter, who will be entering kindergarten this fall. The café will be open seven days a week and will feature an expanded menu including espresso drinks, pastries, croissants, panini or focaccia and eventually bread. Look for new planters and a bench outside to mark the opening. "We're going to be baking everything we sell here," says Welsh.

Betcha Can Book a Beckett

The campaign to save Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 2788 Diamond, is about half way there, says owner Eric Whittington. Approaching its fifth anniversary, the bookstore has seen an outpouring of community support since Whittington made it known that the store was operating in the red. Sales are up about 25 percent overall and a host of volunteers have helped Whittington get the word out and even staff the store so he can get out to do errands. But 25 percent is only half way there. "If we can bump business up another 25 percent, we think we'll have a platform for real growth instead of just bare survival," Whittington said in a flyer distributed at the Glen Park Festival.

There are two significant milestones ahead for the store. First is the simple question of whether there's enough business in Glen Park to support a bookstore. The volunteers, loyal customers and weekend music lovers clearly think so, but in Whittington's words, "they can buy only so many books." The key to success will be getting the word out to more neighbors and friends to eschew Amazon and head for B&B. Books can now be special ordered by phone or e-mail, and can be shipped directly to your home. Whittington fears a serious drop in customers when Glen Park Marketplace construction begins: "I'm scared of the construction period," he says. "We can't survive a year's downturn in business." If the nearby work does keep customers away, he's contemplating local bicycle delivery service for those who can't get down to the store.

Dental "spa" is taking shape

by Dan Gustavson, D.D.S.

We're almost finished with construction of the new home for Glen Park Dental at 590 Bosworth St., right across from the BART station. At this point, we're painting and putting in cabi-

A glass half full

by Paul and Tiffany Farr

On a fall day in 1975, a life-changing conversation began in our home:

Wife Tiffany: "Honey, Ron and Nancy at Leo's Liquors just suggested that we buy their business."

Husband Paul: "What do you think?"

We discussed the idea for many days. The business was two blocks from our home on Sussex Street. We guessed that it would be a good location because BART was nearby. It never dawned on us that we had no experience running a retail business. We liked liqueurs and tequila sunrises! How tough could it be? Buy merchandise/sell merchandise. Thus began our 21-year experience of owning a small business in our very own neighborhood of Glen Park.

Our opening day was July 14, 1976. Due to complications with the landlord, we had to move the business. The new location had been a plant store, "Emerald City." We had to completely remodel the storefront. (We borrowed $45,000 on our very first investment, a four-unit building in Brisbane that we still own). The new "Leo's Liquors" at 678 Chenery was a vast improvement. It had redwood-framed light fixtures and built-in wine bins.

Our neighborhood clientele was a mixed bag in 1976. Most wanted bargain wines. So, we created the $2.99 wine section. We did our darndest to find the best wines we could for this price. We filled our six-door cold box with beers from as many countries as we had room for. We filled the shelves with many liquors in all the sizes they come in—half pint to half gallon (later to be metric). But, we needed to be good at sales/promotion. We weren't. We stood there in our store front, surrounded by merchandise, waiting for customers. We did enough business to keep us going, but just barely. We lived for the holidays. In 1981, we purchased the building and changed the name of the business to Tiffany's Wines & Spirits.

We started our business just as the California wine boom was beginning. We began to learn, OJT, about wine and spirits and beer. Oh, it was tough: taste, taste, taste. The California wine business, of which San Francisco is the commercial hub, has two tasting seasons: spring and fall. The tastings are held in hotels and fine restaurants. They include food pairings with the wine. There are "tastings" from various state wine regions—Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Santa Barbara, etc. There are French tastings including Bordeaux, Burgundy, Rhone and Champagne. There was an annual Port tasting at the St. Francis Hotel. We also attended tastings devoted to the wines of Italy, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Chile and other countries.

What an education! One memorable story explained the symbol of Chianti Classico, the Gallo Nero, or black rooster. The Italian provinces of Sienna and Florence had been fighting over territory for centuries. They came up with a way to establish the boundary. A knight from each town woke up at dawn, mounted his horse and rode toward the other. The knight from Florence was awakened by the earlier-crowing Gallo Nero, and thus covered more territory before the two met. Florence is a more important city today.

We recommend two Tuscan wines: Chianti Classico, plum fruit with earthy/woody hints in the aftertaste; serve with pasta dishes and grilled meats or Italian cheeses! Also, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, a white wine of distinction. Vernaccia is an ancient grape. The wine is crisp with subtle flavors; serve with fish/seafood.

Editor's Note: The Glen Park News is pleased that Paul and Tiffany have agreed to provide our very own wine column. If you have comments, please contact them at tiffanyfarrSFrealtor @yahoo.com.

Dental spa continued

netry, and soon we'll have the floors and new equipment installed in time for our August opening.

The new office will feel more like a dental "spa" than an office, with a garden outside, floor-to-ceiling windows and a warm and cozy decor more reminiscent of a trip to Napa than to the dentist! Additionally, we are upgrading much of our equipment to include treatment lasers, zoom laser bleaching, and Cerec Cad/Cam one-visit crown and filling technology that all make patient visits as fast and easy as possible, while creating the most beautiful smiles imaginable.

My wife and I will soon be certified to provide sedation dentistry; that's right, you sleep while we work, to make things even easier for our patients. However, with our comfortable new dental spa environment, our patients may prefer to stay awake and ask us to use older, slower technology, so they can stay longer and enjoy the view!

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Real Estate in Glen Park

by Bill Berry

It sold for HOW much?

One might think that we slipped into a time warp that brought us back to the dot-com days, as homes (not only in Glen Park) are selling with multiple offers and many WAY over their asking price. Super-low interest rates have been keeping monthly mortgage payments low. Many homeowners are refinancing for the second or even third time and some are trading up, purchasing their dream homes, and first-time homebuyers are jumping in while they can still get those historically low interest rates.

Take a look at Glen Park's sizzling home sales since January 1, 2004.

Single Family Homes

Date / Address / List Price / Sold Price

01/08 - **56 Sussex St.** - $679,000 / $726,000
01/09 - **61 Whitney St.** - $1,095,000 / $1,175,000
01/09 – **2469 Diamond St.** - $699,000 / $802,000
01/16 – **924 Chenery St.** - $471,950 / $471,950
01/20 – **473 Chenery St.** - $536,000 / $510,000
01/23 – **852 Chenery St.** - $1,895,000 / $1,765,000
02/10 – **36 Bemis St.** - $1,150,000 / $1,150,000
02/25 – **390 Arlington St.** - $688,000 / $730,000
02/26 – **33 Martha Ave.** - $919,000 / $1,019,000
02/27 – **248 Whitney St.** - $779,000 / $895,000
03/05 – **18 Wilder St.** - $699,000 / $900,000
03/19 – **62 Sussex St.** - $699,000 / $901,000
03/24 – **94 Joost Ave.** - $590,000 / $690,000
03/24 – **76 Laidley St.** - $949,000 / $940,000
03/30 – **56 Chilton St.** - $1,495,000 / $1,495,000
03/31 – **190 Hamerton Ave.** - $599,000 / $635,000
04/01 – **174 Fairmount St.** - $499,000 / $580,000
04/08 – **218 Acadia St.** - $595,000 / $740,000

Condos

03/11/04 – **321 Chenery St.** - $479,500 / $500,000
04/01/04 – **323 Chenery St.** - $479,500 / $500,000

2 – 4 Units

02/06/04 – **33 – 35 Chenery St.** - $850,000 / $851,000
01/09/04 – **2733 Diamond St.** - $1,249,000 / $1,249,000

Economic Factors

Bot, can it last? Just-released consumer price index figures showing a .5 percent rise in March, with the core rate (excluding volatile energy and food prices) showing a .4 percent rise, are increasing pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates before the end of the summer. Yields on U.S. Treasury bonds have started to rise. And, according to Reuters, interest-rate futures have priced in a nearly 100 percent chance that the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates at its August monetary meeting. Plus, the market has not yet experienced the full "crowding out" effect of the expanding federal budget deficit, already at an all-time high in nominal terms (partially because Japan and China have been buying dollars and Treasury bonds in order to keep their currencies low so they can maintain their levels of exports to the U.S.).

Whether long-term interest rates start to rise in response to endlessly expanding federal shortfalls remains to be seen, but it seems more likely than not since an even a larger budget deficit looms with the Bush administration waiting until after the November election to submit its budget supplemental for the costs of the wars and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

However, if the current recovery continues with the economy starting to produce significantly more jobs and productivity gains start to be reflected in higher incomes for individual Americans, demand for homes should remain high and prices should continue to rise, albeit potentially at a slower rate due to rising interest rates.

Nonetheless for those first-time homebuyers who had their hearts set on our lovely, neighborly village, don't despair. For now, interest rates are still close to all-time lows and there are several different loan products to choose from. The best way to find out what you can afford is to contact your local lender or mortgage broker and ask them what you might qualify for using different loan options. Many people, even those with not-so-great credit, discover that they qoalify with little down payment.

Bill Berry is an agent with Zephyr Real Estate. He can be contacted at 552-0129, ext. 63, or by e-mail at BillBerry@ZephyrSF.com.

Underground utilities work is moving along

As residents of the top block of Roanoke Street and the 500 block of Laidley can attest, PG&E crews—in conjunction with SBC and Comcast—are hard at work on the latest Glen Park utility undergrounding project. Construction began a few weeks ago with digging of an underground vault at the corner of Moffitt and Bemis. Trenches were quickly dug down the sidewalks of Roanoke, then around the corner onto Laidley. The 10 and 100 blocks of Surrey Street are next.

"Rough completion" is now targeted for late September or early October, according to PG&E's Valerie Lawson. By then new underground conduits for power, telephone and (if owners choose) TV cable should have been extended to each home. And every home in the special underground district should be ready to switch from overhead wires to the new services.

Lynn Fong of the Department of Public Works reminded property owners on April 22 that they're obligated to provide connections to feed into the underground infrastructure. Since this project was originally scheduled to begin last fall, many homes have already been retrofitted. Fong noted that utility poles and overhead wires cannot be removed until every property owner has completed the necessary conversion, so it is essential that everyone involved complete their conduit work soon—by May 24 if possible. Fong's office is now assessing the status of each property; each owner should have returned DPW's questionnaire by now.

Amid all the digging, PG&E's crews on the street are doing their best to minimize inconvenience for residents. When they're finished, everything will be repaved. But there's more to come before that happens: after the utility conduits are installed along the sidewalks, PG&E will go back and install a new gas main in the street.

When all the new utility connections are ready, cables will be pulled through the conduits. Look for it all to be done in the summer of 2005.

PG&E undergrounding crew is shown here at Roanoke and Laidley in late April. Sidewalk trenching work will continue along Surrey Street to the corner of Thor.

More spring street construction: the City installed new sewer lines on Congo Street from Martha to Bosworth (above) and on Farnum from Addison to Moffitt.

Study shows the benefits of car-sharing

by Eliot Dobris
Director of Marketing & Communications,City CarShare

You've probably seen City CarShare's green Volkswagen New Beetles driving around the city. If you're a member, or know someone who is, you know that City CarShare is a local nonprofit that offers people in the Bay area a cheap, convenient alternative to owning a car. But you may not know that car-sharing dramatically reduces the emission of greenhouse gases, according to a new study conducted at UC Berkeley. According to the study, City CarShare saves 13,000 miles of vehicle travel each day, which translates into savings of 720 gallons of gasoline and 20,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

The UC researchers found that since joining, 30 percent of City CarShare households in San Francisco have sold one or more of their privately owned cars. Sixty-seven percent have chosen not to buy an additional car. Overall automobile travel among City CarShare members has dropped 47 percent, while use of public transit, walking and bicycling by City CarShare members has increased.

City CarShare's fuel-efficient Volkswagens and Hondas provide significant savings in fuel consumption. In 2004 City CarShare expects reduction of greenhouse gases will accelerate as it adds more than 20 new, fuel-efficient Scion Xa and Xb compact wagons to its fleet.

The vision of City CarShare's founders is a more livable San Francisco with fewer cars, far less congestion and pollution, more open space and safer streets for bikers and pedestrians. The results of the UC study show that this is coming to pass.

City CarShare offers its memhers 24-hour access to 80 late-model cars at nearly 40 locations throughout the Bay area for $2–$4 an hour and 44¢ per mile. The price include gas, insurance, parking and maintenance. In Glen Park, members can presently choose between a green New Beetle or a silver Jetta wagon located in the Glen Park BART parking lot. And they have access to dozens of other cars stationed around the city, East Bay and Peninsula. Cars can be reserved for any length of time from 15 minutes to 15 days or more. Reservations can be made at the last minute or in advance, either online or by phone. Members can immediately access the vehicles at their neighborhood location without paperwork or waiting in line.

"Not only is City CarShare an affordable alternative to car ownership, it is also incredibly easy to use," said Annie Bourdon, City CarShare's deputy director for outreach and expansion. "Members always have a guaranteed parking space at the end of their trip; and the cars are cleaned, repaired and maintained by City CarShare staff. Almost anyone is eligible to join. We encourage folks to start enjoying the freedom of driving without the hassles—and cost—of car ownership."

Eighty-five percent of City CarShare members use the service at least once per month; 30 percent use it once a week or more. The biggest use of City CarShare is for shopping (30% of trips) followed by personal business (19%), recreation (13%), travel to work (11%), social (8%), medical (6%), eating out (5%) and other. The authors of the UC Berkeley study compared the cost of individual trips based on time and distance and wrote that 84 percent of trips taken during the period researched were cheaper using City CarShare than they would have been using taxis or traditional car rental.

One thing these numbers fail to capture is the pure bliss enjoyed City CarShare members who never have to repair or clean a car again. If you're a car owner who is not yet convinced that City CarShare is for you, or you'd like information about joining, visit www.citycarshare.org, or call 415-995-8588. Becoming a member takes only five minutes; just a few days after that you can be driving one of the cars!

Exercise balls are not just for your abs!

by Lori Chaplin

These days, one of the hottest trends in fitness is the exercise ball. It offers a new approach to abdominal training. We are all used to performing our crunches on the floor and detesting every moment. The ball offers a fun new approach to crunches while increasing the intensity of the exercise. It is an inexpensive piece of equipment that takes up very little space in your home. Many of the clients at Sol Gym have jobs in which they travel. The ball can easily be deflated and taken with them in a suitcase. Usually the ball comes with a very small air pump to inflate it in a hotel room.

While the most popular use for the exercise ball is abdominal training, you can perform a multitude of other exercises to strengthen and tone nearly your entire body. This article focuses on your hips, or gluteals, and gives you a new series of exercises that you can add to your fitness routine.

Wall Squats

Stand with your back to the wall and place the ball in the lumbar curve of your back (low back area). Walk your feet forward about 6 inches, continuing to hold the ball against the wall with your low back. Make sure your knee joints are lined up with your ankle joints. We don't want your knees to "knock" in toward the midline and put additional stress on the knee joints. Once in position, perform a controlled squat until your hip joints are at the same level as your knee joints or your knees are bent to 90 degrees. Drive off of your heels to return to your starting position. Remember to control the motion. Perform three sets of 15–20 repetitions. If you find 15 repetitions too many, try three sets of 10 reps and gradually increase the reps as you become stronger. Inhale as you lower your body, exhale as you straighten your legs.

Straight Leg Bridges on the Ball

Lie supine (on your back) on the floor with your heels on top of the ball and with legs straight. Hands are at your side with palms down. Push your heels into the ball and lift your hips into the air. Be careful not to lift too high and load your neck. Maintain contact on the floor with your shoulder blades to ensure you are not lifting too high. Lower your hips back to the floor to complete the motion. For a more advanced exercise try bridging with one leg. Perform three sets of 15–20 repetitions. If 15 are too many, try three sets of 10 and gradually increase the reps as you become stronger. Rest 30 seconds between sets.

Straight leg bridges. Photo by L. Chaplin

Leg Curls on the Ball

Lie supine on the floor with your calves on top of the ball. This position is similar to the foregoing exercise but more of your lower leg will be on the ball. Perform a bridge and hold your hips in the air. With hips elevated, roll the ball and bring your heels toward your glutes. Return to the starting position of legs extended, and keep hips off the floor while you complete the rest of the set. Do not return your hips to the floor between each repetition. Perform three sets of 15–20 repetitions. If 15 are too many, try three sets of 10 repetitions and gradually increase the reps as you become stronger. Rest 30 seconds between sets.

Leg curls. Photo by L. Chaplin

Alphabets on the Ball

Lie supine on the floor with your heels on the ball. Perform a bridge and continue to hold your hips up for the entire exercise. Write the letters of the alphabet with both heels. Your knees will bend as you draw the alphabet with your heels. This advanced exercise is difficult. You may want to only go to the letter M and build your strength and endurance over time. If you can perform the whole alphabet, try for three sets with 30 seconds rest between sets.

Fun Fitness

So now you have some tools to create "buns of steel" before summer gets here! The exercise ball can be so much fun that you will actually enjoy your workouts more than the standard exercises we are familiar with. Many entertaining exercises can be performed on the ball. The list is endless. You can purchase a ball just about anywhere. Prices range from $15–$35. I suggest the Gymnic brand, which is much thicker and lasts forever. You can buy it from many sources online or drop by Sol Gym and pick one up. In addition, you may want to book a single session with one of our trainers or one at your gym to learn more exercises from time to time.

With a masters degree in exercise physiology and a bachelors in athletic training/exercise physiology, Lori Chaplin is certified as a strength and conditioning specialist by the National Strength and Conditioning Association, as an exercise scientist by California State University, Chico, and as a post-rehabilitation specialist by the American Academy of Health & Fitness Professionals. She has owned and operated Sol Gym in Glen Park for 13 years and Sol Gym in San Diego for 4 years. Lori also teaches exercise science at Grossmont College.

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Garden Club News

by Carol Maerzke

Garden Club learns about birds and bees

Spring has sprung and all of the Glen Park Garden Club members are out in their gardens watching everything come to life. They have been to the local nurseries and on club field trips to out of town places; they're buying colorful annuals and are enjoying the sunshine and fresh air.

The Village Garden on Diamond Street has been lovingly tended. We take great pride in this project, and its beauty is our gift to you. On Saturday, April 10, about 10 members weeded, thinned and pruned the garden in just about an hour, leaving it particularly beautiful.

Plants that we propagated for the Glen Park Festival have found happy homes in local gardens. Proceeds from our booth at this year's festival will be used for projects that improve our community over the coming months.

Club programs have included an April presentation by Tom Laursen, outreach manager for Strybing Arboretum. He showed slides of Strybing and discussed plants that do well in our area. In March, Quinn McFrederick, a conservation biology graduate student at San Francisco State University, spoke on native bumblebees and what draws species to certain areas. Some of our members have volunteered their gardens to assist him in his research.

When you attended the Home and Garden Show at the Cow Palace in March, we hope you enjoyed the window boxes planted by Jeff Britt and his committee. Kay Estey, the Glen Park Garden Club member who designed and chose the plants for our Village Garden, was the producer of this year's fantastic Cow Palace show. All concerned with the show earned plaudits.

Participants in the Garden Club's February propagation workshop are (standing, left to right) Connie Levy, Barbara Langerman, Carol Maerzke, Ann Weinstein, Jeff Britt, Jean Conner, and Tiffany Farr, and (front) Susan Fink, Mary Betlach and Terrie Campbell.

Propogation pays off: Garden Club volunteers sold loads of plants at the festival.

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Bailey's World

by Katharine Holland

Summer's Here!!

Okay, so we have all heard this one—according to Mark Twain, "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco." Leave it to San Francisco to update the quote—as told by Herb Caen in one of his columns, "The most beautiful woman I ever saw was a man in San Francisco."

What better place is there to people-watch than our city's festivals and street fairs!? Now that the Glen Park Festival has led off the parade, put on your walking shoes and take Muni or BART to try out a new festival or revisit one of your favorites from among the many the city has to offer.

San Francisco Street Festivals and Fairs

Carnival – Saturday and Sunday, May 24 – 25

Harrison Street (from 16th to 22nd)

San Francisco's colorful version of Mardi Gras. The big Sunday parade begins at 10 a.m. at 24th and Bryant streets.

Nature Fest – Sunday, June 6, 1 – 6 p.m.

Glen Canyon Park

$20 adults/$5 children

Includes BBQ & Zoomobile with live animals, bats, birds, bugs and much more!

Union Street Art Fair – Saturday and Sunday, June 5 – 6, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Union Street (from Steiner to Gough)

Arts and crafts fair with jazz, food, street performers, tea dancing and children's activities.

Haight Street Fair – Sunday, June 13, 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Haight Street (from Masonic to Stanyan)

Arts, crafts, food and two stages of colorful entertainment.

North Beach Festival – Saturday and Sunday, June 19 – 20, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Washington Square Park, Grant Avenue and adjacent streets

The 50th anniversary of SF's oldest street fair will feature food, music, beat poetry, a medieval piazza, Italian chalk art, blessing of the animals, and arts and crafts.

San Francisco Waterfront Festival – Sunday, July 4, noon – 9 p.m.

Fisherman's Wharf

Waterfront Independence Day party with fireworks at 9 p.m.

Fillmore Street Jazz Festival – Sunday, July 4

Fillmore Street (from Eddy to Jackson)

Free jazz festival featuring live music on three stages.

Ghirardelli Square Chocolate Festival – Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 – 12, noon – 5 p.m.

Ghirardelli Square

Tiramisu, truffles, fudge cake and chocolate-covered strawberries are just a few of the delicious desserts. The winner of an "Earthquake" ice cream sundae-eating contest will receive his or her weight in Ghirardelli chocolate. All proceeds benefit Project Open Hand.

Folsom Street Fair – Sunday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Folsom Street (from 7th to 12th)

The city's biggest street fair crowd—some 300,000—includes leather devotees from around the world; adult party ambience is not for the timid or uptight. A voluntary admission charge benefits nonprofit organizations.

Castro Street Fair – Sunday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Castro and Market (and adjacent streets)

Four stages offer diverse live music and dancing amid arts, crafts and food booths. Voluntary admission charge for this 30th annual event helps support more than 20 neighborhood nonprofits.

Katharine Holland is a realtor at Coldwell Banker. She contributes regular columns to the Glen Park News, focusing on neighborhood history, interesting people and other tidbits. Her friend Bailey is a 13-year-old yellow lab whose photo didn't fit on this page. If you have suggestions, contact her at 447-8849 or khsf@att.net.

Above: Glen Park Resident Nick Kohler, 5, enjoys engine no. 26 fire truck at the festival. Right: Glen Park resident Julia Nemeroff, 4, gets a balloon hat from "Tip da Clown."

Zakiya Hooker and Bluz 4 U entertain the festival crowd.

Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

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GPDOG-ers (from left to right) Sophie O'Shaughnessy, Dave Johnson, and Kate Stoia help paint out graffiti at the Silvertree preschool.
Photo by Regan Pritzger, Glenridge parent and volunteer

Back in action: Dog folks help In the canyon

by Kate Stoia

Hi there, we're GPDOG! The Glen Park Dog Owners Group (or Guild, for the more Shakepearean among you) would like to introduce itself to you. We are your friends and neighbors who you see walking our dogs in Glen Canyon Park. Dog walkers are the most consistent users of the park—we are out in the park with our dogs day and night and rain or shine.

We help keep the park clean by picking up garbage and any dog mess that we see (whether or not it came from our dog) and we help keep the park safe by walking on its trails at all hours and calling the police when we see anything or anyone that looks dangerous. Our goal is to be productive park users who work to maintain the unique beauty of Glen Canyon Park along with all the other people who use and love it.

Although GPDOG was active as a group years ago, we have not met again until recently, in response to requests from the Recreation and Parks Department that we take a position on proposed changes and improvements to the park. We held our first meeting on March 13, with about 40 people and assorted canines in attendance.

Our goals for the park include banning cars from the park unless needed by disabled people to access the park; encouraging the use of natural barriers, such as trees and shrubs, as opposed to metal fencing to separate trails from off-limits areas; and increased safety measures in the park, such as better lighting and drainage.

GPDOG members attend all park clean-up days and we have also sponsored our own well-attended event to help Rec & Parks with trail maintenance at the back of the park. We have also begun working with Glenridge preschool in the park to help with their graffiti-eradication program. On March 31, the preschool let us know that they had been badly tagged with graffiti the weekend before and five GPDOG volunteers showed up that morning to help repaint the outside of the school. We had the school looking like new in about an hour!

GPDOG welcomes new members—if you have a dog and walk in Glen Park, we want you! Yearly dues are $10 per family. Please contact one of our co-treasurers/secretaries: Ilana is at illana_drummond@yahoo.com and Renee is at reneeg@uclink.berkeley.edu. We also have an online group where you can send e-mail to the whole group or check on the group's past postings: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gpdog/. Finally, if you'd like more information, please contact me at katestoia@earthlink.net.

Police seeking park vandals

As Kate Stoia mentions in her Glen Park DOG story above, graffiti has become a huge problem in Glen Canyon this spring. The Silvertree building was covered with tags during spring break, cleaned up, then covered again seemingly overnight. The Rec Center has also been hit. Partying youths are blamed. One resident of the canyon rim offered to spend the night in a tree with an infrared camera. Instead, Ingleside Station assigned a sergeant and two officers to deal with the problem. No arrests had been made by our press time.

DPW Web site is informative

The Department of Public Works' Web site contains a wealth of information, from the phone number to report graffiti or dumping (28-clean) to a list of current permits for street construction projects. Access their site at sfgov.org/sfdpw.

Tell ParkScan if you observe park problems

by Justina Cross

ParkScan is a unique tool created by the Neighborhood Parks Council that serves as an electronic interface between the community and local government. San Francisco's many neighborhood parks are a much-valued resource, and ParkScan helps local City agencies engage the community in discussions concerning park maintenance. We hope people in the Glen Park community will take an active role in reporting the conditions of their park.

If you would like to report a problem (graffiti, broken benches, etc.) in Glen Canyon Park or other local parks, or are interested in joining a ParkScan observer group, please visit our Web site, www.parkscansf.org.

Photo by Denis Wade

Kid stuff

You've probably seen joggers wearing wrist weights to enhance their fitness fix. That's kid stuff to Jill Kimbrough, who pushes more than 50 pounds of real kids on her almost-daily runs from her home in the Excelsior neighborhood, up through the streets of Glen Park and Diamond Heights, across Portola Drive, down O'Shaugnessy Boulevard and back home—a loop of over six miles. Daughters Cammie, going on five, and Millie, nearly three, go along for the ride. This regimen has helped Jill lose 80 pounds since Millie was born. Dad Jason jogs with the girls on weekends.

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Planning and the future of Glen Park: A wake-up call

by Dan Tuttle

By the time you read this, the Planning Commission will have already heard the case for the Glen Park Draft Community Plan. They will probably also have heard the case for approval, without environmental review, of the Draft Housing Element of the San Francisco General Plan. What they will not have heard, and what we as a community have not had the opportunity to discuss, is the linkage between the two.

The Draft Housing Element, for those who are not familiar with it, is a proposed update of the document that sets planning, growth and development policy for the entire city, our General Plan. All new planning policy, all major projects, in fact even our Marketplace project, should be in compliance with the City's General Plan before they can move forward.

For the City to contemplate major changes in our General Plan is, as you might imagine, a big deal, and should not be contemplated lightly. These proposed changes to the Housing Element have the potential to affect development policy citywide, for better or worse, for years to come.

In fact, the currently proposed changes to the Housing Element are substantial enough that a number of neighborhood organizations have sprung up in order to challenge them. The proposal includes significant height, bulk and density increases across the city, but especially in what the City refers to as Transit Rich Districts (such as Glen Park). Being a policy document, the General Plan is intentionally short on specifics; but its stated goal is to substantially increase the amount of housing available near transit, in order to meet the projected housing need as defined in the Draft. The tools for accomplishing these goals would include reducing parking requirements, increasing allowable heights and densities, legalizing illegal in-law units and revising other established land-use policies.

This is not simply a new way to increase the available supply of housing in San Francisco. Rather, it is a huge change in the way that population densities are assigned in the city, and it has the potential to bring downtown densities into the outer neighborhoods. The Draft itself acknowledges that the anticipated need for 20,000 additional units could be met through infill development under current policy, but in order to more dramatically shape the process, and with an eye toward moving the bulk of those 20,000 units into those aforementioned Transit Rich Districts, the Draft Housing Element was developed.

The problem, and the threat, according to such groups as Save Our Neighborhoods (www.saveourneighborhoods.org) and the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods (www.csfn.net), is that the City is poised to approve this document without the benefit of environmental review. They have issued a Negative Declaration (a "Neg Dec"), meaning that Planning staff have determined that the new policy will not have a significant impact on the environment of the city, and that no further study is necessary. What has not been contemplated, either as a part of the Neg Dec for the Housing Element or in our own Glen Park Community Plan, is the way in which these policies, separately or in combination, might be used by developers and by Planning to circumvent community control and effect significant change in our neighborhood.

Even Mayor Newsom has spoken against the plan: his pre-election Web site referred to the Draft Housing Element as "a one-size-fits-all heightened density plan that could have a catastrophic effect on San Francisco's unique neighborhoods." His proposal is for the Planning Department to defer to the Better Neighborhoods Program for specific guidelines for each neighborhood.

Today, unfortunately, and in spite of Newsom's objections, we still have the Draft Housing Element moving its way through the process, and we have our own Glen Park Community Plan, and both of them remain remarkably free of any specifics. Do we as a community really know what to expect under either of these plans? Do we trust the same Planning Department that brought us the Housing Element to fairly implement growth in our neighborhood under the Glen Park Community Plan?

Regardless of how the Planning Commission votes on either of the plans, it remains imperative that we, as a community, be kept informed about City policies that might irrevocably impact our unique and beloved neighborhood. Planning documents are simply tools; they can make doing good easier, or they can facilitate such foolish development decisions as the Embarcadero Freeway, many years ago, or more recently the Fillmore Towers. But, ultimately, it is we, the residents of Glen Park, who hold the power to see good or ill in our Village.

In 1972, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods was formed to protect our neighborhoods against insensitive policies developed downtown. They have recently adopted a resolution in opposition to the Housing Element. The Glen Park Association was an early member of the coalition, and shared many of its concerns and enthusiasms. The first stated purpose of the GPA under its adopted Articles of Incorporation is "To promote the collective interests of all persons living in the San Francisco Neighborhood known as Glen Park." That's "all persons," not simply association members or the Executive Committee. It is sometimes necessary to jar the institutional memory and to recall the original mission.

I have not, to date, read anything in the Glen Park News about the Housing Element, which is perhaps the largest proposed change to San Francisco planning policy in our generation; and there has only been uncritical reporting on the Community Plan. Given the magnitude of change that is possible under either of these plans, it is imperative that the GPA reclaim its historic advocacy of neighborhood interests and that we participate fully in the GPA as a political tool for our preservation. To some in City Hall, we may be simply a BART stop and an on-ramp. We here in Glen Park know better.

Dan Tuttle, a landscape architect and planner, has been a Glen Park resident since 1993. He lived on Terry's meatloaf while restoring his home.

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Another crime in our "safe" neighborhood

by Denis Wade

Last fall we reported on the October robbery of a Diamond Street woman on her way home from work. At the end of January a similar robbery occurred, about two blocks from the first. The descriptions of the robbers and the vehicles were different and the crimes apparently weren't connected. Police describe these as "crimes of opportunity" where the thieves spotted a potential victim (female) alone after dark, carrying a bag likely to contain valuables.

Computerized crime-tracking statistics show that Glen Park remains one of the city's safer neighborhoods. But there are ways you can protect yourself and minimize your loss if you're attacked on the street.

A victim's story

"I got to the Glen Park BART station at about 7:25 p.m. on January 28. I stopped to pick up food on Diamond Street, and walked my usual route up Chenery and Castro toward home in the 400 block of Laidley Street. I was carrying my large purse on my left shoulder, and on my right shoulder I was carrying my shoulder-strapped briefcase. The food was in my left hand.

"I almost made it. The 500 block of Laidley is very dark, with insufficient streetlights—those there are are blocked by large trees. Along a particularly dark stretch, almost to Roanoke, I suddenly felt my briefcase lifted up—I think the robber was checking the weight to see if there was a computer inside (there wasn't). I whirled around, evidently dropping the food as I did.

"I was confronted by a 5 foot-10 inch to 6 foot tall black man wearing a knit hat, large old-fashioned aviator-style glasses with a silver-colored frame, a nylon windbreaker with a flannel lining in dark blue and dark pants and shoes, maybe 23–25 years old. I began to scream and try to strike him in the face, or at least scratch him. We struggled for what the neighbors said was about eight seconds, me screaming the whole time. I had no idea what his agenda was. He didn't say a word, just pulled on my purse handle to get it off my shoulder. I dropped my briefcase sometime during the assault.

"Finally, the purse handles broke and he ran down the hill where a dark green or silver minivan was parked with side door open, motor running and lights off. I chased the robber, shouting "Drop it, you SOB." But he didn't. He threw himself through the open door and the driver, who had been waiting all this time, zoomed off. It was too dark to make out the license plate.

"A neighbor had come outside. She asked if I wanted her to call the police, and I said yes. Her little boy was standing outside the house, and I said, 'I tried to catch the bad guy, but he got away with my purse.' The boy said, 'Somebody took my scooter once.'

"I walked slowly back to the scene, where five or six neighbors had gathered around, as well as two squad cars. The scene of scattered food and abandoned briefcase had led at least one neighbor to tell the cops he thought someone had been kidnapped—that must have brought the quick response. Another squad car arrived shortly, coincidentally with the same two officers I had spoken to outside of the Chinese restaurant after I got the food. They took the report, and asked if I could identify the robber if I saw him again. The answer is yes!

"I lost a beautiful new leather Coach tote-style bag, a cell phone, several credit and identification cards, prescription sunglasses, matching leather wallet, cosmetics case, gloves, business card case and key chain, several irreplaceable photos and a pill box my dad gave me many years ago, as well as my electronic office key and a Swiss Army knife I'd had since college. I had returned from a business trip the day before, so I still had in the purse my "trip money" of $180. New York had been safer than San Francisco it turns out."

Taking precautions

The foregoing account shows our neighbor's impressive presence of mind during the extreme stress of the moment. Her detailed description of the robber and his attire may help police link this crime to others. And lessons she learned may help future potential robbery targets. As former Ingleside Station commander Captain Kevin Dillon stressed, the best protection is to always be aware of your surroundings.

Inspector John Peterson of the SFPD's Robbery Detail stresses protecting yourself from injury by carrying a purse, bag or backpack in a way that allows a determined thief to take it without hurting you; keep the strap over your shoulder, but don't wrap it around your body.

If a robber does get your bag, there are precautions you can take to minimize the loss. "Items in your purse should be disposable," Peterson says. "Carry things like family pictures, credit cards, cash and checks separately, preferably in a pocket if possible." And, "Bus stops and shelters are frequent robbery locations. If you take the bus, learn its schedule to try and minimize your waiting time, and try not to be alone—if possible commute with another person."

Residents can help by watching their streets, observing lurking strangers (especially in cars), noting license numbers when possible, and reporting suspicious situations. Ingleside's new commander, Captain Paul Chignell, says he can help eliminate dark stretches of sidewalk by asking the Department of Public Works to promptly trim trees that block street lights.

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Community Calendar

Glen Park Association

Quarterly Meetings are held at the Glen Park Recreation Center in the park (Elk and Chenery streets) on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Agenda includes community planning.

Glen Park Advisory Board

No activities are scheduled at press time. Watch the summer issue for meeting and beautification day dates.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Meetings and Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.–noon. Next dates: May 15, June 19, July 17. Meet at the wooden picnic tables on the west side of the Recreation Center. Contact Jean Conner, 584-8576.

Weekly Work Parties: Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.–noon. Contact Richard Craib, 648-0862 for meeting place.

Annual Nature Fest

Saturday, June 6, 1–6 p.m. at the Silvertree building in Glen Canyon Park. This not-to-be-missed event has become a community family favorite. The story on this page has details.

Fairmount FiestaVal

Saturday, May 15, noon–5 p.m. at the school, 65 Chenery at Randall.

Fairmount Elementary School invites neighbors to FiestaVal, the annual spring party, to sample food, participate at craft booths, watch kids dance Ballet Folklorico, and buy auction items and raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes donated by families and local merchants. To view the auction items, visit: http://fairmountfiestaval.org.

Light Yoga Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:15–7:15 p.m. (except second Tuesday of each month). Light Yoga classes at the Glen Park Recreation Center are an easy way to begin or continue the study of the Iyengar method of Hatha Yoga. Christine Trost teaches the basic poses, and modifies postures to suit your own physical requirements. This is a free community-service (some leave gratuities for the teacher). Wear comfortable pants and top. If you don't have a Yoga mat, bring a large towel. For more information call Christine at 846-8481.

Saturday Dance Exercise

Saturday mornings, 10–11 a.m. at the Rec Center. See the story on this page for details and costs.

SFPD Community Forums

Third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.: All residents are invited to participate in the monthly Community Relations Forum at SFPD's Ingleside Police Station, hosted by the new commanding officer, Captain Paul Chignell. There are refreshments, informative guest speakers, and the opportunity to ask questions and air your concerns. Drop in and get acquainted with some of the dedicated people who work hard—and occasionally risk their lives—to keep our community safe. The main station number is 404-4000, or you may e-mail Captain Chignell at Paul_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us.

Next dates: June 15, July 20.

Bird & Beckett Books

Upcoming May and June events:

Every Friday, 5:30–8 p.m.: Unwind after work with live jazz by the **Chuck Peterson "Quintet Plus."**

First Sunday of every month, 6–8 p.m.: Vocalist **Dorothy Lefkovits** with the **Henry Irvin Trio**—an open jazz jam session. Next date: June 6.

First and third Monday, 7:30 p.m.: **Open mic poetry series** plus two featured poets. Check with the store for upcoming names.

First Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.: **Bardic Roundtable**, an open discussion of poetry and poetics.

Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: The **Eminent Authors Birthday Reading** features an open reading from the works of favorite authors whose birthdays fall during the month.

First Wednesday, 7 p.m.: The **Bird & Beckett Book Club.** The featured selection May 5 is How to be Good by Nick Hornby; June 2, Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi.

Sunday, May 16, 4:30 p.m.: Acoustic music by **Eric Moore and Katie Bursk.**

Monday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.: A poetry reading with Seattle poet **Bill Witherup,** San Francisco troubadour **Jerry Ferraz** and the eminent **Sterling Bunnell**, followed by an open mic.

Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.: - A poetry reading in the Friends and **Students of Diane di Prima** series, hosted by Ms. di Prima and featuring **Suzanne Gary, Robin Demers and Catherine Craig.**

Friday to Sunday, May 28–30: Bird & Beckett's Fifth Anniversary Celebration, honoring the legacy of the store's namesakes, jazz legend **Charlie Parker** (a.k.a. "Bird") and writer **Samuel Beckett**.

Friday, May 28, 5:30–10 p.m.: Chuck Peterson Quintet & Friends pay tribute to jazz genius **Charlie Parker.**

Saturday, May 29, 7 p.m.: "Ten Franc" – a reading of the first act of a New York Drama Guild Award-winning play about Tennessee Williams by Glen Park neighborhood poet and CCSF faculty member **Marc Dulman.**

Sunday, May 30, noon–4:30 p.m.: Open reading from the works of Samuel Beckett; **Walker Brents** discusses Beckett's work.

Sunday, June 6, 4:30 p.m.: Poet **Jack Marshall** precedes the regular 6 p.m. music by **Dorothy Lefkovits, Henry Irwin** et al.

Thursday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.: **QR Hand and John Ross** hoist their traditional toast to their decades-long friendship and the publication of John Ross' latest book, *Murdered by Capitalism.*

Sunday, June 13, 4:30 p.m.: **Marc Dulman** hosts CCSF faculty poets **Leslie Simon and Ronald Johnson.**

Reserve now for the annual Nature Fest

Friends of Glen Canyon Park's fifth annual Nature Fest will take place Sunday, June 6 from 1–6 p.m. at the Silvertree building in Glen Canyon Park. The afternoon of nature-related activities will culminate with Richard Craib's famous bar-b-que. To plan the food and events, advance reservations are requested.

Nature walks will be led by some of the Bay Area's best-known experts plus, and there will be informative slide shows. You'll find out everything you always wanted to know about birds, bats, butterflies, bugs, native plants, mushrooms, geology and more.

A special children's activity table will feature live animals, insects, snail painting and crafts.

Cost is $20 for adults, $5 for children under 12. Call Friends of Glen Canyon Park's Richard Craib at 648-0862 for more information and to make reservations before June 1.

Rhythm and motion classes in Glen Park

by Vanessa Mosqueda

Everyone is welcome to join our Saturday morning "fusion rhythms" dance workouts at the Glen Park Recreation Center. In this dance workout program, you will warm up your body and dance and move for 25 minutes straight; then you'll end with focused strength and alignment work. Weekly hourlong classes begin at 10 a.m.

The "dance" part means that everything you do during the hour has the feeling and the spirit of dance. Rhythm and Motion started the Dance Workout program in 1979. Our teachers are professional, trained dancers, whose choreography draws on a wide variety of dance forms: modern, salsa, ballet, hip-hop and many more. We use an eclectic range of real music, music that you would actually want to listen to at home. The spirit in dance makes you feel good.

An individual class costs $11, but until June 31 new students can purchase a four-class pass for only $32; this pass must be purchased on your first visit, and the remaining three classes must be taken within 90 days.

Come check it out join, dance with me at the Rec Center. For information about our other classes and wonderful teachers, visit our Web site, www.rhythmandmotion.com, or call 621-0643.

With Rhythm and Motion since 1996, Vanessa Mosqueda is a dance teacher for schools and dance studios, and choreographer and Artistic Director for the Mixtiso dance group. She is a professional dancer certified in ethnic dances and classical ballet. Her strongest dance background is in Latin, hip-hop, salsa and ballet.